

Message Text

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51

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OMB-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07

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L-02 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 INT-05

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R 101218Z JAN 75 ZFD

FM AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3673

INFO AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMCONSUL MASERU

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

UNCLAS JOHANNESBURG 0030

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, SF, LT

SUBJ: CHARGES & COUNTER-CHARGES FEATURE AFTERMATH OF VAAL

REEFS RIOTS

REF: JOHANNESBURG 26

1. WITH HOMEWARD-BOUND BASOTHO MINE WORKERS INDICATING THAT ONE OF THEIR PRINCIPAL OBJECTIONS TO LESOTHO GOVERNMENT'S DEFERRED PAY ACT IS THAT THEY DO NOT TRUST THEIR OWN GOVERNMENT, LESOTHO PRIME MINISTER JONATHAN HAS PUBLICLY ACCUSED SOUTH AFRICAN MINE MANAGEMENT OF MISLEADING MINERS WITH "FAULTY INFORMATION" ABOUT NEW LEGISLATION. ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS HE HAS ACCUSED VAAL REEFS OF PROVIDING INFORMATION "WHICH WAS SO INCOMPLETE--AND IN SOME WAYS SO INACCURATE--AS TO MAKE A MOCKERY OF THE ENTIRE NEW SYSTEM OF DEFERRED PAY."

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2. IRONICALLY, SOME HOMEWARD-BOUND BASOTHO APPEAR TO HAVE REVEALED THAT ONE REASON THEY RESORTED TO VIOLENCE IN SOUTH AFRICA

WAS BECAUSE THEY FEARED RETRIBUTION IF THEY DEMONSTRATED IN THEIR OWN COUNTRY*

3. CHAMBER OF MINES FOR ITS PART, WHILE REJECTING JONATHAN'S CHARGES, HAS ANNOUNCED THAT HENCEFORTH IT WILL TAKE STRONG ACTION AGAINST "TROUBLEMAKERS" IN EFFORT TO PROTECT LAW-ABIDING EMPLOYEES. ACCORDING TO STATEMENT RELEASED FOLLOWING MEETING FEBRUARY 9 "THE MINES WILL IN FUTURE SEND TROUBLEMAKERS HOME AS SOON AS POSSIBLE." CHAMBER ALSO ANNOUNCED THAT RECRUITING HAS CONTINUED WITHOUT INTERRUPTION IN MOZAMBIQUE, THAT FIRST GROUP OF 24 MINERS RECENTLY RECRUITED IN RHODESIA HAS ARRIVED AND THAT RECRUITING IN SOUTH AFRICAN HOMELANDS HAS INCREASED OVER LAST YEAR.

4. IN MEANTIME LARGEST GOLD MINING COMPLEX IN WORLD (VAAL REEFS) WAS FUNCTIONING WITH LESS THAN HALF OF ITS NORMAL BLACK LABOR FORCE & CRITICS WERE POINTING OUT FOR THE UMPTEENTH TIME THAT IF ADEQUATE MACHINERY FOR CONSULTATION & NEGOTIATIONS HAD EXISTED IN IN MINING INDUSTRY MUCH OF WHAT HAS HAPPENED PROBABLY COULD HAVE BEEN AVOIDED.

GUTHRIE

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